

Northern Cheyenne Indians

The Cheyenne Indians originated in Minnesota and were forced West by other Indian tribes. They were allies of the Sioux tribe and were famous warriors, respected by Indians and whites alike.

Around 1830, the main Cheyenne tribe split into two bands. The northern group remained in their territory in southeastern Montana near their Sioux allies and the southern group went to Colorado.

The Northern Cheyenne signed the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 and the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 which closed the Bozeman Road. After gold was discovered in the Black Hills and the treaty was broken, they refused to go to the reservation. They fought with the Sioux on the Bozeman Road and at the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

After the Battle of the Little Bighorn, the Northern Cheyenne wandered the plains in small bands, pursued by the Army. In 1877, the band under Two Moons surrendered to General Miles at Fort Keogh near mouth of the Tongue River. The bands of Dull Knife and Little Wolf surrendered in Nebraska and were sent to Indian Territory in Oklahoma.

In 1878, Dull Knife and Little Wolf were determined to join Two Moons band back in Montana. 300 men, women, and children, determined to return

to their homeland, attempted to walk all the way to Montana. They met stiff resistance from the whites. Dull Knife decided to surrender in Nebraska, but Little Wolf made it all the way to Fort Keogh where he surrendered in 1879. Fewer than 100 people survived this journey.

Beginning in 1880, the Northern Cheyenne began to farm near the Tongue River and they were finally given their own reservation. On November 26, 1884, the Northern Cheyenne was established.